

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A method for identifying one of a plurality of devices in a model vehicle system, comprising:

positioning a remote control device near a first one of said devices while said first device remains operational in the model vehicle system;

transmitting an identifying signal (ID) from said first device to said remote control device via a first communication channel, wherein said remote control device is only capable of receiving said ID for said first device when said remote control device is placed within a narrow spatial field emanating from said first device with a limited viewing angle, so that said ID is not interfered with by transmissions from other devices; and

associating said first device with the ID, so that only said first device responds to transmissions from said remote after said remote control device receives said ID;

wherein said ID is used to provide a command from said remote control device to said first device via a second communication channel that is separate from said first communication channel.

2. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said narrow spatial field is achieved by recessing a detector.

3. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said narrow spatial field is achieved by recessing a transmitter.

4. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said ID is an infrared signal.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said first device repeatedly transmits the ID.

7. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said first device transmits said ID in response to a transmitted request from said remote control.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said remote control device transmits a signal which is reflected off a reflective code on said device.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said device is an accessory.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said device is a model vehicle.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 10 further comprising: associating, in said remote control, at least one control input with a control function for said vehicle with said ID.

13. (Previously presented) A method for identifying one of a plurality of model trains, comprising:

periodically transmitting from a first model train an ID for said first model train in a limited field infrared transmission having a limited view angle;

positioning a remote control device near said first model train while said first model train operates in a model train system so that only a transmission from said first model train is received by an infrared receiver in said remote control device;

associating, in said remote control device, at least one control input with a control function for said model train with said ID; and

providing a command to said model train from said remote control device, using said ID, along a communication channel separate from said limited field transmission.

14. (Previously presented) A model vehicle comprising:

a processor configured to receive commands from a remote control unit via commands received from a communication channel;

a transmitter mounted in said vehicle for directing a transmission of an identifying signal (ID) that can be received by said remote control unit independent of said communication channel while said vehicle is operating in a model vehicle system; and

means for limiting a view angle of said transmission so that only a narrow transmission from a single vehicle is received by said remote control unit when positioned in a field of said transmission.

15. (Previously presented) The model vehicle of Claim 14 wherein said processor is programmed to periodically cause said ID associated with said model vehicle to be transmitted by said transmitter.

16. (Original) The model vehicle of Claim 14 wherein said transmitter comprises an IR LED, and where said means for limiting the transmission of said transmission comprises a barrier around said LED formed by a recess in said model vehicle.

17. (Original) The model vehicle of Claim 14 wherein said transmitter is mounted in a windshield of said vehicle.

18. (Original) The model vehicle of Claim 14 wherein said vehicle is a train, and said communication channel is over the train tracks.

19. (Previously presented) A remote control unit for controlling a plurality of model vehicles, comprising:

a processor configured to generate a plurality of commands to designated vehicles identified by IDs, in accordance with inputs provided by a user, over a first communication channel;

a receiver mounted in said remote control device, for receiving a transmission from said first model vehicle, separate from said communication channel, conveying an ID of said first model vehicle while said first model vehicle remains operational in a model vehicle system, wherein a field of view of said receiver has a limited view angle; and

said processor being configured to send a command to said first model vehicle, over said first communication channel, using said ID received by said transmission, in response to a user input.

20. (Original) The remote control unit of Claim 19 wherein:

said model vehicle is a model train;

said transmission is an IR transmission; and

said first communication channel includes providing commands to said model train over the train tracks.

21. (Previously presented) A system for controlling model vehicles, comprising:

a first model vehicle including a processor configured to receive commands via a first communication channel, a transmitter mounted in said first model vehicle for directing a transmission of an identifier (ID) that can be received independent of said first communication channel, and means for limiting a view angle of said transmission so that only a narrow transmission from the first model vehicle is received by a receiver positioned in said field of said transmission;

a remote control unit for controlling said model vehicles, including a processor configured to generate a plurality of commands to designated vehicles identified by respective IDs, in accordance with inputs provided by a user, over said first communication channel;

a receiver mounted in said remote control device, for receiving a transmission from said first model vehicle, separate from said communication channel, with the ID of said first model vehicle while said first model vehicle remains operational within a model vehicle system; and

said processor being configured to send a command to said first model vehicle, over said first communication channel, using said ID received by said transmission, in response to a user input.